

CITY HOSPITALS SUNDERLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP

Notes of the Workshop held on Thursday, 11 September 2008 in the City Hospitals Meeting Room, Trust Headquarters.

Present: Mr D P Graham – Chairman (DPG)
Mr K W Bremner (KWB)
Mr D Clifford (DC)
Ms M Harte (MH)
Mr L Boobis (LHB)
Mr B Charlton (BC)
Mr R Neville (RN)
Mrs C S Scholes (CSS)
Mr B Kilmurray (BK)
Mrs J Pattison (JP)

Apologies: Mr M Davison (MD)

In Attendance: Mrs C Harries (CH)
Mr G W Hood (GWH)
Ms K Griffin (KG)

1. Professional Clinical Registration Policy

KG presented the policy which had been reviewed and revised as part of the routine review of HR policies as well as following feedback from the Level 1 NHSLA assessment carried out in 2007.

The Chairman queried as to whether we were able to flag when an individual's registration was due. KG confirmed that this was possible but that in the future a series of spot checks would also be initiated. CSS advised that currently managers were issued with a list of registration dates to ensure that staff were continuously registered.

The Chairman also queried as to whether £38 as identified in Section 6.3 was the maximum amount available. KG replied that this was only for A4C staff.

DC queried as to whether the wording in section 3.2 was sufficiently strong. It was agreed to change 'it is important' to read 'it is essential'. DC also highlighted that in section 2.1, the second bullet point should read 'ensure that staff who are'.

The numbering sequence should also be changed as currently there were two section 2's.

LHB queried as to how the Trust ensured that Pharmacists were registered. KG replied that she would need to clarify and advise Directors.

Resolved: To approve the policy subject to the agreed changes.

2. Annual Report 07/08 – Fire Safety

GWH presented the report which detailed the fire safety performance of the Trust and in particular reported on fire incidents, drills and training provided over the year.

GWH highlighted the concerns that despite best efforts we were only able to demonstrate a marginal improvement of training levels. GWH did reinforce however, that the compliance observed during fire drills etc was of a high standard.

KWB queried as to how much progress had been made with the upgrading of the Hylton Road block fire alarm system. GWH replied that approximately half of the funding had been used by installing the main spine. He confirmed that the Fire Brigade were happy with that progress to date.

DC commented that smoking at hospital entrances was still an issue. GWH stated that challenging both patients and visitors was the responsibility of all staff. He advised that security staff kept a record when known, of all challenges and if the situation became aggressive then the law could help us.

BC commented that with the continuous flow of people coming through the doors this can often be difficult to reinforce.

Resolved: To accept the report.

3. Security Strategy Update – 2007/08

GWH presented the report which updated Directors on progress to further develop the security infrastructure. GWH identified that discussions had taken place recently as to whether security staff should be issued with 'stab vests'. GWH explained that there were mixed views from security staff as to whether or not they wished to wear the vests. RN queried as to whether the vest could be issued only to those staff who wished to wear it. GWH replied that there would then be problems if the vests were purchased and we did not enforce the wearing of such vests.

The Chairman commented that in future reports it may be helpful to separate intentional violence from the unintentional violence.

Resolved: To accept the report.

4. Health and Safety Initiative – End of Year Report

GWH presented the report which advised Directors of progress made up to 1 April 2008 and also to advise of our proposed next steps.

GWH advised that given the impact of the single incident reporting system introduced in 2003, all performance graphs had now been reset to commence from April 2004 which was thought to give a more reliable indication of the trends to date.

Resolved: To accept the update.

DAVID GRAHAM
Chairman
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust